

4 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Services

FROM: Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT: Role CRD Could Play in the "Use of
Economic Intelligence"

REFERENCE: DDI Memo on "The Future of Economic
Intelligence" dated 6 September 1983

1. The principal role that CRD/OIS could play in the wider distribution of economic intelligence by CIA would be integrating the declassification review of such information into the overall Agency release program. CRD has many years of experience in reviewing all types of Agency material, and has developed a reasonably good "feel" for what information has already been released. The detailed substantive review should be done by the originating unit, or at least coordinated with them; but, just as important, the decisions to hold or release should be considered within the general context of the results from many years of forced release brought about by FOIA, PA, and mandatory review requirements. The participation of CRD would ensure better consistency and provide stronger grounds for withholding.

2. A second area where CRD could perform a service, almost as valuable as the above, would be in recording what material is released. Again, CRD has considerable experience through developing and using the DARE computer system which recorded the actions taken under the previous systematic classification review program. CRD has recently developed the Released Information Management System (RIMS) which could play an additional role by recording informational items of questionable classification. Whether these systems are used or others are developed for the purpose, CRD personnel have had the experience in recording classification review actions that would be applicable in any case.

3. Finally, CRD could play the role of centrally processing and reviewing the material. This would have the advantages of (a) streamlining the process by having one unit processing and controlling the flow of documents, (b) the need for coordination would be lessened and more precisely identified where required, (c) there would be greater consistency in review actions taken, (d) broader experience would enable broader guidelines to be developed as the experience warrants, and (e) there would be a better record of what has been released.

4. CRD has also had considerable experience working with other agencies on declassification review. While this experience does not include the Department of Commerce, it does provide CIA with a capability of coordinating any new program with many agencies--including some that may play a role--such as State, Defense, NSA, NARS, and the Presidential libraries.

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Chief,
Classification Review Division

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1 - CRD Chrono

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